

Remarks

It is first noted that the present application has a filing date of February 8, 2002 and a Continuation-in-Part of application Serial No. 09/608,048 filed 08/30/2000 which is a Continuation-in-Part of application Serial No. 09/089,845 filed 06/03/1998.

Consequently, Rajaiah et al is not a pertinent reference since it has a later filing date and applicants can swear back to 1998.

The applicants also distinguish over Rajaiah et al by relating to a method of removal of biofilm from medical lines. In contrast, Rajaiah cleans dentures which are usually placed in a container so that effervescence can be generated. Moreover, there is present a coating agent, namely, polybutene. Polybutene does not wash away and is rinse resistant. This feature is fine for dentures but detrimental to medical lines in which there would be a build-up that causes clogging. Rajaiah et al also includes fillers that are held by the polybutene. This indicates that if polybutene were in medical lines, a build-up of debris would occur which is not found in a daily renewable denture treatment.

Consequently, even though Rajaiah is not a proper reference, it still does not lead one in the art to the present invention.

Waggoner alone does not disclose a composition or a method for removal of biofilm from medical lines. Waggoner relates to a method of sanitizing water and treatment of surfaces with the sanitized water with a bactericidal agent. Waggoner specifically states that strong disinfectants or antioxidants are not used. Furthermore,

halogen-based antiseptics are not used. This is contrary to the present invention which employs the combination of an oxidizing agent and an alkali metal iodide salt.

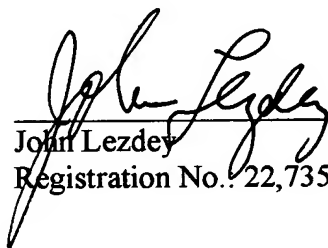
Consequently, Waggoner fails to teach or suggest the novel combination of ingredients for the removal of biofilm from medical lines. Waggoner merely teaches the use of a single component of the present claims and does not disclose the use of an iodide salt but specifically rejects the use of halogen based antiseptics.

The Examiner is therefore requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 USC103 in view of Rajaiah et al or Waggoner alone or in combination.

With regard to the objection under 35 USC112, the Examiner's attention is directed to claim 39, part 4 which refers to a buffer. Claim 43 has been amended to depend from claim 42 which generically recites the preferred buffer.

Reconsideration and favorable action in view of the foregoing paragraphs is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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